

PRODUCTION OF HIGH PURITY ALKALOIDS; PRECIPITATING FROM AN ACIDIFIED  
AQUEOUS SOLUTION BY ADDING A MINERAL ACID OR SALT

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Abstract:

A method for extracting valuable alkaloid materials from plants containing the same comprising slurring the comminuted plant material in a mixture of water and a cosolvent at a pH of 8.5, adding a nonpolar, water-insoluble, solvent to dissolve the alkaloid, washing the nonpolar phase with acidulated water to convert the alkaloid to the imminium ion or acid salt form, precipitating the alkaloids, and recovering and drying the alkaloid.

Exemplary Claim:

1. A METHOD FOR EXTRACTING AN ALKALOID FROM A PLANT CONTAINING THE ALKALOID, WHICH ALKALOID FORMS A FREE BASE SOLUBLE IN NONPOLAR SOLVENTS AND A WATER SOLUBLE ACID SALT COMPRISING GRINDING THE PLANT MATERIAL, SLURRYING THE PLANT MATERIAL IN A MIXTURE OF WATER AND A COSOLVENT, ADJUSTING THE PH OF THE MIXTURE TO A PH OF ABOUT 8.5, EXTRACTING THE ALKALOID IN A NONPOLAR SOLVENT WHICH IS INSOLUBLE IN WATER, DISSOLVING THE ALKALOID INTO WATER BY LOWERING THE PH OF THE SOLUTION WITH ACID, ADDING THE SALT OF A MINERAL ACID OR A MINERAL ACID TO PRECIPITATE THE ALKALOID, AND COLLECTING THE PRECIPITATED ALKALOID.